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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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S E C R E T NATO 06879

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, MILI, GR, TU
SUBJECT: GREECE-NATO DISCUSSIONS: NEXT STEP

REFS: (A) STATE 159479 (DTG 082358Z JUL 77), (B) USNATO
5933 (DTG 241153Z JUL 77)
1. WE AGREE ON THE NEED TO ELICIT THE VIEWS OF PANSA AND
THE ALLIES ON WAYS TO RESOLVE THE PROCEDURAL DILEMMA AND
TO DEMONSTRATE TO THEM OUR CONCERN THAT NATO ADDRESS THIS
PROBLEM ON A STEADY, SYSTEMATIC BASIS. WE, THEREFORE,
INTEND TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE HAD AT NATO
WITH D/SYG PANSA AND OTHERS ON THE PROCEDURAL COMPLICA-
TIONS IMPEDING THE GREECE-NATO DISCUSSIONS. AS NOTED
REF B, PANSA IS ON LEAVE. HE WILL RETURN ON JULY 25 AND
WE PLAN TO SEE HIM IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER TO DISCUSS
WASHINGTON'S THOUGHTS ON NEXT STEPS (REF A).

2. WE HAVE KEPT IN GENERAL TOUCH ON GREECE-NATO QUESTION
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WITH THE MOST CONCERNED OF THE ALLIES AND WITH NATO
OFFICIALS SUCH AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY MUMFORD. WHILE
WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO, WE SEE MERIT IN WAITING UNTIL
AFTER PANSA'S RETURN, GIVEN THE ACTIVE AND INCREASINGLY
CREATIVE ROLE HE HAS PLAYED IN ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP A
SUITABLE PROCEDURAL APPROACH TO THE NEGOTIATIONS (REF B).
WE DO NOT WANT TO APPEAR TO PANSA TO BE OUT OF STEP WITH

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HIS OWN EFFORTS SINCE HE APPROACHES THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SAME AIMS AND PREMISES AS DOES THE US. WE PLAN, THEREFORE, TO DISCUSS WASHINGTON'S LATEST THOUGHTS ON THE NEXT STEPS WITH ONLY A VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF THE MORE CONCERNED ALLIES PRIOR TO SEEING PANSA. DEPENDING UPON PANSA'S REACTIONS, AND FURTHER WASHINGTON GUIDANCE IF NECESSARY, WE WOULD THEN CONSULT WITH OTHERS.

3. THE IDEA (REF A) THAT A "TEST CASE" MIGHT BE USED TO BREAK THE CURRENT PROCEDURAL LOGJAM COMBINES, IT SEEMS TO US, BOTH PROMISE AND PITFALLS. WE WOULD PREFER TO PRESENT THE IDEA TO PANSA FOR CONSIDERATION AS A FALLBACK POSITION SHOULD HE AND THE OEG BE UNABLE TO MOVE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER ON AN ACROSS THE BOARD PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS. THE POSSIBLE DANGER OF SINGLING OUT ONE ISSUE FOR ATTENTION FOR THE OEG IS THAT THE TURKS, FOCUSING FULLY ON IT, COULD DEVELOP AND INSIST ON ELABORATE MONITORING AND GUIDANCE PROCEDURES. THEY MAY WELCOME SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY, KNOWING THAT THE APPROVED PROCEDURES WOULD BECOME A PRECEDENT FOR THE HANDLING OF OTHER OPERATIONAL ISSUES. IN THE PROCESS, THEY COULD CONTINUE TO OBSTRUCT THE NEGOTIATIONS AND PERHAPS USE THE TEST CASE TO SLOW THEM DOWN EVEN FURTHER. BENNETT

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